

City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

SummerFest Returns to Bohrer Park June 29 Gaithersburg's Premier Summer Festival and Fireworks Spectacular

Gaithersburg, MD (June 11, 2019) Celebrate America's independence with friends and family at <u>SummerFest</u>, Gaithersburg's illuminating summer festival on the expansive grounds of Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm. The free event takes place on **SATURDAY**, **JUNE 29**, 2019, from 5 to 11:30 p.m. and features live music, food, and activities, all leading up to a spectacular fireworks display and SummerGlo After Party. This year's event is sponsored in part by Hood Cottage Cheese and Herbology Dispensary.

SummerFest kicks off at 5 p.m. with *Nation*, one of DC's top dance bands. Enjoy classic R&B, soul, pop and rock as this stellar group performs up until the fireworks begin. Stay for an encore performance during the SummerGlo After Party, taking place from 10 to 11:30 p.m.

Throughout the event you'll find family-friendly entertainment, including strolling entertainers, inflatable amusements (even a dual-lane zip line), kids activities, face painting, balloon twisting, volleyball, and field games. New this year is an interactive Touch-A-Truck area where children can explore a variety of rescue, construction and news media vehicles. "In the Dark Circus Arts" will perform aerialist shows and a marching band will lead pop-up parades throughout the festival grounds.

Enjoy delicious offerings from food and local craft beverage vendors, including Brawling Bear, Waredaca, Dogfish Head, True Respite, Supreme Core Cider, and Charm City Meadworks. ATM's available onsite.

The air-conditioned Activity Center will be home to more festival fun with space-themed activities that celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing. Enjoy inflatables, DJ Sweet Pea, kids crafts, and activities. The Activity Center also serves as a comfort station with indoor bathrooms and space to relax up until 9 p.m.

Once it gets nice and dark (approximately 9:25 p.m.), a spectacular fireworks display will light up the night with bursts of amazing colors and styles that launch up to 500 feet. Bohrer Park is the best place to watch them, but there are several viewing options in surrounding locations. A map identifying best viewing spots is available here.

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Wait out the traffic after the fireworks by staying for our SummerGlo After Party. *Nation* will give an encore performance while LED hoopers, jugglers, stilt walkers, and glow balloons entertain the crowd. The playground will be fully lit, and you can purchase glow-in-the dark merchandise to be part of the fun.

Guests are welcome to bring their own food and blankets to enjoy a picnic during the event, or purchase a meal and treats from a variety of vendors and food trucks. Coolers are allowed, but for safety reasons, personal grills, outside alcoholic beverages, glass containers, weapons (real or facsimile), and fireworks of any kind (including sparklers) are strictly prohibited. Pets are not recommended due to crowd and noise issues. If brought, they must be leashed. Skateboards, scooters, rollerblades, and bikes will be confined to the Skate Park. Smoking and vaping are not permitted in public spaces in Gaithersburg.

Limited parking is available onsite. It is recommended that those who park onsite stay and enjoy the SummerGlo After Party as significant traffic delays are anticipated following the fireworks display. Bohrer Park is within a ¼ mile walk of Olde Towne, Gaithersburg, where there is free parking in a variety of lots and in the <u>parking garage</u>. A parking map can be found <u>here</u>.

Note that the Gaithersburg Police Department is planning lane reductions along Route 355 adjacent to Bohrer Park and there will be a change in traffic patterns during the event. Cars will not be allowed to cross over or turn left onto Route 355 between Cedar and Central Avenues. Plan your route accordingly. If you are not attending the festival, please take alternate routes to avoid the area completely.

Crossing guards will be stationed along Route 355 at the intersections of South Summit Avenue, Education Boulevard and Deer Park Road. There will be many pedestrians in the area; please use caution. To ensure pedestrian safety, Summit Avenue between Hutton Street and South Frederick Avenue will close to vehicles at 5 p.m.

Please do not stop your vehicle on Route 355 to watch the fireworks display. You will be ticketed, and if you are not with your vehicle, it will be towed.

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm is the perfect setting for an all-day family outing. It's home to the Gaithersburg Water Park, Skate Park and Miniature Golf Course, plus walking paths, a playground and ponds. It's also home to the Activity Center, which will be open until 9 p.m. during SummerFest, hosting indoor activities and serving as a comfort and cooling station. The Water Park and Miniature Golf Course open at 11 a.m. and the Skate Park opens at Noon. Note that the Water Park will be open for the exclusive use of City residents and aquatics members only on June 29. There are entrance fees for the Water Park and Miniature Golf Course.

If the fireworks are canceled due to inclement weather, select SummerFest activities will be moved inside the Activity Center at Bohrer Park on Saturday, June 29, and the fireworks ONLY will be rescheduled for Sunday, June 30. **There will be no fireworks on July 4.** Check the City's website regularly for updates at www.gaithersburgmd.gov and follow us @GaithersburgEvents on Facebook and @GburgMD on Facebook and Twitter. Call 301-258-6350 for more information.

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